

GrAins

Greening Agrifood
in Social Economy



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Greening the Agrifood in Social Economy

DIESIS NETWORK



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AGRI-FOOD SECTOR



•Economic Contribution of Agri-Food Ecosystem

- Value added by agri-food activities: €585 billion in 2021 (4.84% of EU value added)
- Employment: Around 16.3 million people engaged in the ecosystem

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):

- Backbone of agri-food ecosystem
- 99% of 289,000 food and drink enterprises are SMEs
- SMEs contribute 48% of turnover and employ over half of the workforce in food and drink manufacturing

Large Companies:

- 1% of large food and drink companies generate over 50% of sector turnover

Farms and SME Classification:

- Farms not officially classified as SMEs, but most can be considered as such
- Only 1% of EU farm holdings have a turnover exceeding €500,000 per year



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Main Challenges

Emissions and Pollution

The agri-food sector contributes significantly to carbon emissions and environmental pollution, impacting climate change and biodiversity.



Food systems contribute to around 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions

Resource Depletion

Intensive farming practices lead to soil degradation, water depletion, and loss of biodiversity, posing long-term threats to food security.



Food and agriculture account for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals
Agriculture alone is responsible for 28% of total freshwater withdrawals

Waste Generation

The sector generates substantial food and packaging waste, contributing to environmental degradation and resource inefficiency.



8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions attributed to food waste

Demographic and Consumers trends

Projected Population in 2050: 10 Billion People
Higher and Different Food Consumption Per Capita



8% of the World's Population Undernourished
39% Overweight or Obese

One third of the world's food is being lost or wasted. • Food losses and waste are estimated to be 1.3 billion tonnes every year

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Main Trends



- Ethical Consumption: Embracing fair trade and animal welfare to drive consumer preferences and establish brand loyalty.
- Certifications and Labels: Providing credibility and market advantage, appealing to conscious consumers seeking transparency and ethical production.
- Sustainable Branding: Positioning sustainability as a key differentiator, aligning brand identity with environmental and social responsibility to attract environmentally conscious consumers.
- Smart Farming Solutions: Implementing monitoring and management of crops to achieve resource efficiency and environmental conservation.
- Regenerative Agriculture: Promoting soil health, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration to contribute to environmental sustainability and long-term agricultural viability.



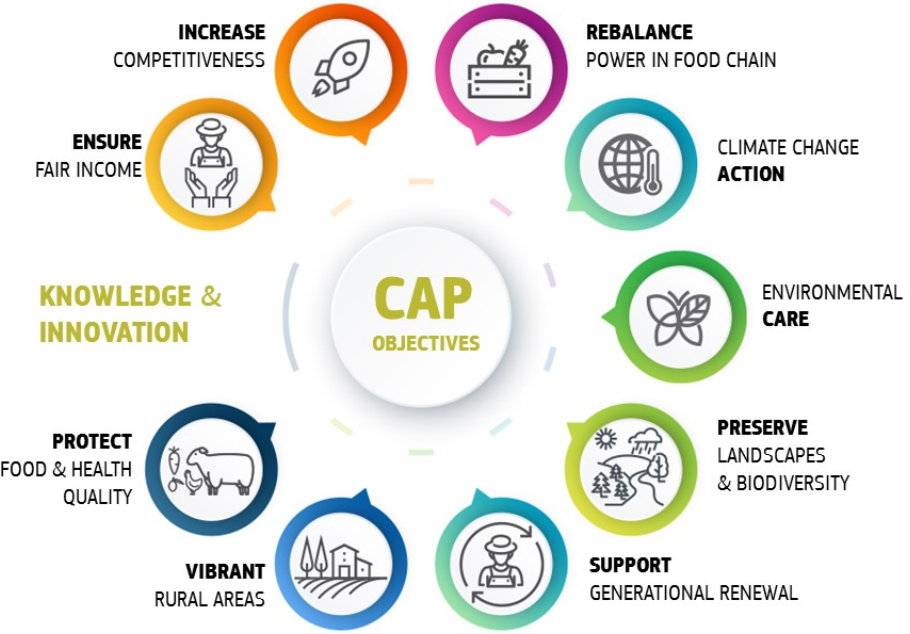
Dual role of agri-food activities
in contributing to and being
affected by climate change

Ensuring agricultural productivity
and sustainable competitiveness
Conserving land and water
resources
Guaranteeing Safe and Healthy Food



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EU Initiatives

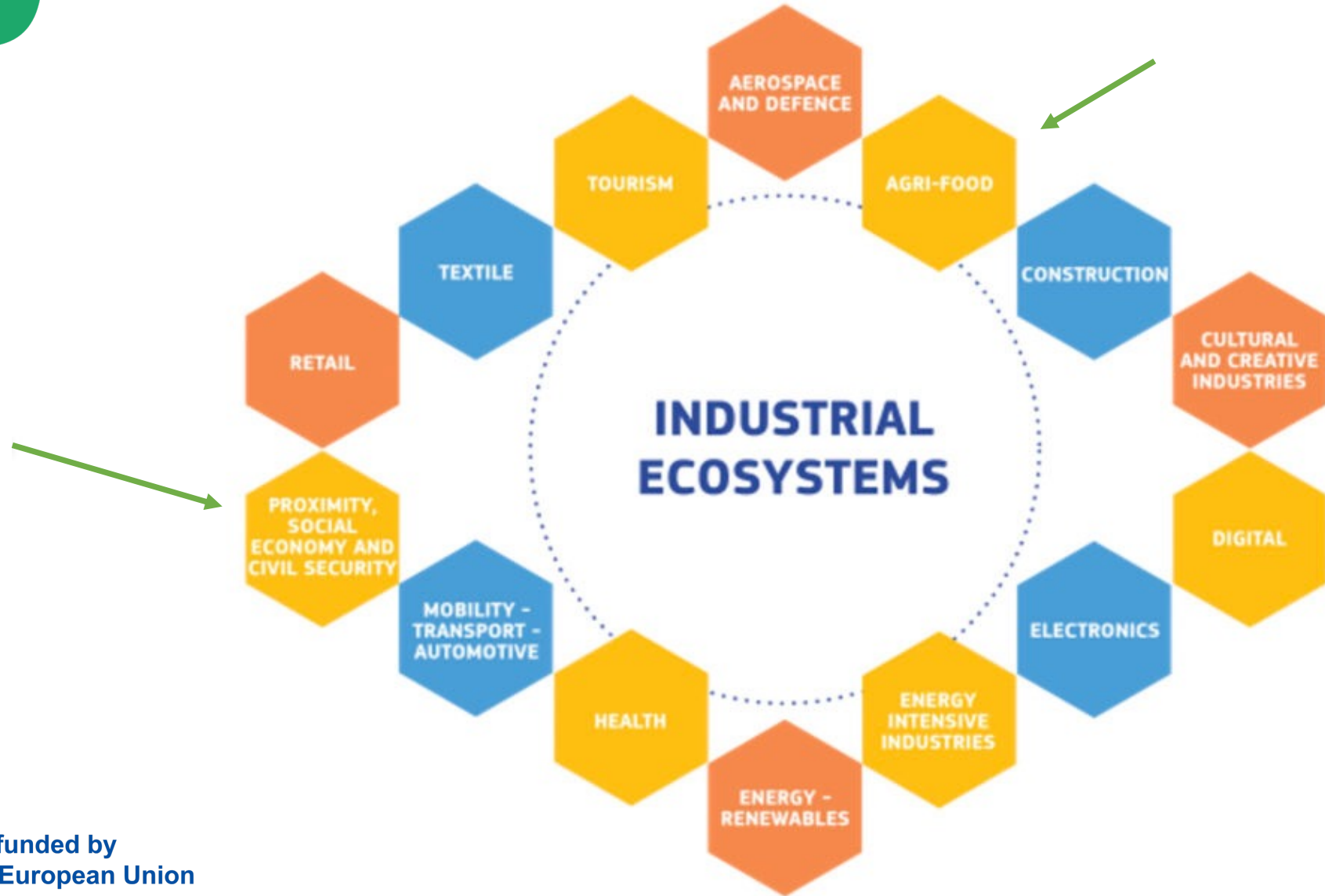


#FutureofCAP



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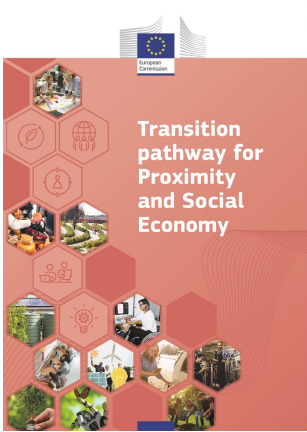
TRANSITION PATHWAY OF THE INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS



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Transition Pathway of Proximity and Social Economy Ecosystem

14 action areas for the green and digital transition of the ecosystem



Transition Pathway Action Areas – Green Transition
1. Reinforcing Business to Business collaboration for greener and circular value chains
2. Creating financial incentives and supportive regulation for green and circular social economy business models
3. Certification, labelling and self-regulation
4. Innovation as enabler for green transition and business development in the social economy
5. Greening infrastructures and business operations
6. Local Green Deals, green business communities and citizens' initiatives
7. Addressing capacity and skills gap

Transition Pathway Action Areas – Digital Transition
1. New business models – the platform economy
2. Data Maturity and data driven business models
3. Public and private tech partnerships and support
4. Data sharing, Data management & Code of Conduct
5. Supporting Digital Social Innovation & Tech for Good entrepreneurship
6. Access to technology
7. Boosting digital skills by - and in the social economy

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AGRI FOOD AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

- Social economy entities in the agri-food sector play a pivotal role in developing alternative food systems, embracing sustainability, and social responsibility.
- Various social economy entities such as agricultural cooperatives, community food enterprises, and social farms are leading the way in greening and sustainable solutions.
- Social economy SMEs significantly contribute to the green transition, aligning with EU regulations and addressing both environmental and social dimensions of sustainability.



- Social economy SMEs address environmental and social needs by promoting sustainable practices, reducing emissions, and providing fair jobs in the agri-food sector.

Social economy SMEs face a lack of knowledge and skills, policy frameworks, funding, and access to technology, hindering their capacity to be more competitive.

It is crucial to assess the needs of social economy SMEs, deliver a green transition, and develop local green markets to cover the supply chain from farm to fork.


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Overcoming Challenges:

Knowledge and Skills: Addressing the lack of knowledge and skills in green practices and digital technologies through investments in training programs and partnerships to bridge this gap.

Policy Support: Advocating for coherent policy frameworks supporting sustainable practices through collaboration with policymakers to shape regulations that encourage and reward green initiatives.

 **Access to Funding:** Ensuring access to funding and investment specifically for environmentally sustainable practices, seeking support from government programs, impact investors, or sustainability-focused grants.

Technology Integration: Providing adequate access to technology and digital solutions to enhance operational modernization, efficiency, traceability, and overall sustainability.

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Empowering Social Economy: Empowering social economy entities through knowledge, funding, and technology is crucial to drive sustainable change and address environmental challenges.

Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering knowledge exchange, innovation, and investment in sustainable agrifood practices through collaborative efforts between public and private entities.

Research and Development (R&D) and Green Tech: Collaborative initiatives supporting R&D in sustainable agriculture, food technology, and environmental conservation to drive innovation and sustainable practices and recognise the importance of approaching technologies to address environmental challenges.

Capacity Building: Empowering stakeholders through training programs and knowledge-sharing platforms to adopt and promote sustainable practices, ensuring a collective effort towards environmental and social responsibility.

Collaboration and Support: Encouraging collaboration between stakeholders, government bodies, and investors is essential to support the green transition of social economy SMEs in the agri-food sector.





Thank you !

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